

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03046 150118Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /045 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3449

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3046

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: USE OF FOREIGN FLAG CARRIERS FOR TRANSPORT OF US-
BOUND REFUGEES

1. SINCE BEGINNING OF REFUGEE MOVEMENT EX MALAYSIA UNDER EARLY
CE AND IPP-77 PROGRAMS, POST HAS STRESSED TRANSPORTATION OF
REFUGEES ABOARD U.S. FLAG CARRIERS.

2. ICEM HEEDFUL OF POLICY AND, IN ALL BUT VERY FEW CASES,
REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA HAVE FLOWN ACROSS PACIFIC ABOARD EITHER
PAN AM OR NORTHWEST ORIENT.

3. AS PEAK AIRLINE TRAVEL SEASON APPROACHES, ICEM IS ENCOUNTER-
ING DIFFICULTY IN SECURING BOOKINGS FOR REFUGEES OUTBOUND
FROM MALAYSIA ABOARD U.S. FLAG CARRIERS EX HONG KONG.

4. EXAMPLES OF INABILITY OF U.S. CARRIERS TO ACCOMMODATE ICEM/
KL WITH BLOCKS OF SEATS EX HONG KONG FOLLOW:

NORTHWEST 50 SEATS FOR 3 MAY

PAN AM 33 SEATS FOR 4 MAY

PAN AM 33 SEATS FOR 11 MAY

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PAGE 02 KUALA 03046 150118Z

PAN AM 33 SEATS FOR 18 MAY

PAN AM 33 SEATS FOR 23 MAY

PAN AM 33 SEATS FOR 30 MAY

5. THOUGH REQUESTS FOR ABOVE SEATS MADE IN FEBRUARY OF 1978,
WE ARE INFORMED, AS OF TODAY, THAT U.S. FLAG CARRIERS CONTACTED
CANNOT MEET FOREGOING REQUIREMENTS.

6. AFTER DISCUSSING PROBLEM WITH ICEM CHIEF OF OPERATIONS (GENEVA) AND ICEM/KL REP., POST CONFIDENT THAT ICEM WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO U.S. CARRIERS. IT IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN FLAG CARRIERS MAY HAVE TO BE UTILIZED FOR REFUGEES OUTBOUND FROM MALAYSIA.

7. UTA (FRENCH) AIRLINES IS BEING CONTACTED FOR FLIGHT EX SINGAPORE TO LOS ANGELES, VIA SOUTH PACIFIC, FOR MAY 4 DEPARTURE.

8. IN INTERESTS OF AVOIDING UNNECESSARY CONGESTION IN TRANSIT CENTERS AND OF MEETING HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF IPP-78, POST FORSEES SOME REFUGEES TRAVEL TO U.S. VIA FOREIGN FLAGS MONTHS MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

9. FOREGOING FOR ADDRESSEE'S INFORMATION SHOULD U.S. FLAG CARRIERS QUESTION USE OF FOREIGN FLAG CARRIERS FOR US-BOUND REFUGEES OR SHOULD ICEM BE PRESSED REGARDING MATTER.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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